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"WE ARE READY TO FOLLOW NETAJI IN LIFE AND DEATH FOR INDIA FREEDOM"

TODAY and TOMORROW

A Flash In The Pan

THE debate on India at the British Labour Party Conference in London last week and its resolution for the release of Indian political leaders have no practical significance for Indians anxious to see their country free. They know from experience that it is one thing for a Labour Party to profess sympathy with Indian political aspirations and that it is entirely another thing to translate this sympathy into a Parliamentary measure. There were times when the most prominent leaders of the Labour Party—men like Ramsay MacDonald, Philip Snowden, and Colonel Wedgewood—as members of the opposition party sang in unison for India's self-government. And yet when these gentlemen actually found themselves in office, they behaved to India no better than their Tory predecessors.

The resolution relating to the Indian problem passed by the Conference has not the support of even the leaders of the Labour Party. After all, it is those leaders who will shape Britain's imperial policy, if and when they overthrow the present Churchill's government. They are against associating themselves with the condemnation of Amery's Indian policy, because that policy has behind it the backing of the most influential sections of the British people—the finance capitalists and the industrialists—the big men of the City of London. No government in Britain can stand for a week if it defies these virtual masters of Britain and her Empire.

In face of these facts, it is obvious that the resolution passed by the Labour Party is just a flash in the pan. In order that it may materialise into a Governmental act, it has to overcome first the opposition of the very bosses of the Labour Party. After that, it will have to overcome the opposition of the Conservative Party which is still far and away the most powerful political party in England. That would be expecting the impossible. No Indian, therefore, will be lulled into false optimism by such hot air as the debate in the Labour Conference.

Eight Enemy Planes Downed In Combat

A Nippon Base in Burma, December 15 (Domei)—A Nippon fighter unit in a sortie over the area south of Bhamo, on the northern front, last evening shot down two enemy transport planes of the Douglas C-47 type definitely, and four others probably, in addition to two P-47 escorting fighters.

Two of our planes failed to return from this air engagement.

Br. Labour Party Leaders Hostile To India Freedom

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Executive Opposes Motion For Release Of Indian Political Prisoners

The hideous intentions of the British authorities to keep India in perpetual subjection were fully revealed in the latest news received here on Saturday from India and Britain.

According to a despatch from London last Friday even the most influential Labour leaders of Britain vehemently opposed the relaxation of British imperialistic power in India at a conference of the British Labour Party held in London last Friday. There was strong opposition to a resolution demanding the immediate release of Indian political prisoners with a view to ending the present political deadlock in India. The resolution which was submitted by the National Union of Railwaymen also favoured the granting of freedom to the people of India to establish an Independent Indian National Government.

Members of the Executive Committee of the British Labour Party opposed the resolution tooth and nail amidst wild scenes and uproar. When James Walker, a member of the Executive, stood up to speak, he was shouted down and Prof. Harold Laski, the Chairman of the Conference, had to come to his rescue with all his oratorical and persuasive powers. Walker, speaking for the Executive of the Party which consists of several well-known Labour members of the British Cabinet and the Parliament, explained that the British Labour Party cannot support any resolution which went beyond the notorious Cripps' proposals which had the backing of the Labour Ministers in the British Government as it stands today. He clearly revealed the attitude of the British Labour Party which has ranged itself on the side of the Conservatives and diehards of Britain.

After a lengthy debate, however, the resolution was passed, but as usual the Labour Party which professes to be sympathetic with India's aspirations, will merely sleep over the resolution. In fact soon after the resolution was passed, one member shouted out: "Put that in a pipe and smoke it". Evidently, it is not worth the paper on which it is written.

Indians Here Give Solemn Pledge Of Total Sacrifice At Mammoth Mass Rally

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NETAJI'S INSPIRING AND SOUL-STIRRING ADDRESS

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A timely reminder to all Indians in Syonan and Malai to their sense of duty and patriotism in carrying out the fight for India's independence to a successful end and urging them to continue their unstinted support in men, money and material, was addressed by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the Head of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind, at a mammoth meeting of Indians held at the Jhansi Rani Camp padang yesterday evening.

In spite of the heavy downpour, which fell shortly after five and which drenched many to the bones and turned the padang into pools of water, the large crowd vied with each other to have a "darshan" of their great leader and hear his speech. The expectant crowd gave a rousing ovation to Netaji on his arrival and the Sectional Chiefs of the Local Affairs Committee garlanded and presented him with bouquets headed by Srijut M. K. Chidambaram, the chairman of the local Chapter of the I.I.L.

Netaji made a powerful and forceful speech in Hindustani touching on the various aspects of the Indian freedom struggle and the next campaign which is about to be launched in pursuit of their avowed objective. The audience was greatly moved and showed their enthusiasm with

(Continued on next page)

Enemy Naval Forces In Mindoro Waters Suffer Alarming Losses

Tokyo, Dec. 16 (Domei)—Approximately one division of enemy ground forces landed near San Jose, Mindoro Island, on the morning of December 15. The Nippon air force and ground units have intercepted the enemy and fierce fighting is now in progress, Dai Honyei announced at 4.00 p.m. today.

The announcement reads: "Firstly, enemy transports escorted by a powerful naval fleet penetrated into the Sulu Sea, Philippine Islands, and on the morning of December 15 approximately one division of enemy forces landed in the vicinity of San Jose, on the southwestern tip of Mindoro Island.

"The Nippon air force intercepted the enemy convoy and is daily attacking the enemy, while our ground forces near the enemy landing point are engaged in heavy fighting with the enemy.

"Secondly, in a series of assaults against the enemy convoy during the three days from December 13 to December 15, our air force up to date is known to have achieved the following results: Sank four transports and heavily damaged and set ablaze eight transports, two battleships, three cruisers, and two cruisers or destroyers, and inflicted damage on six vessels of unidentified category."

Tokyo, Dec. 17 (Domei)—Dai Honyei revealed in a communique released at 3.30 p.m. today that the Nippon Air Force in the Philippines in two attacks against enemy naval forces in waters south of Mindoro Island on the two days, December 15 and 16, sank one battleship or large cruiser and four transports.

Significance Of India Liberation War Fully Told

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Netaji Explains Political And War Situation In Interview With Press

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Head of the State of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind, who is at present on a short visit to his Rear Headquarters in Syonan, met the representatives of the local Press yesterday.

Netaji freely answered a number of questions put to him by the Pressmen. Explaining the object and results of his recent visit to Nippon, Netaji said: "My principal objects in visiting Nippon this time were two, firstly, to establish contact with the members of the New Cabinet and secondly, to discuss with the members of the Government as well as leaders of the Army and Navy problems concerning our future co-operation on political and military matters. So far as the first object was concerned, I had the opportunity of making the closest and intimate contact with the members of the new Government. With regard to the second object we discussed thoroughly all political and military questions concerning co-operation between our two nations, and we arrived at complete agreement on those questions. As a result of this agreement, we are confident that we should be able to work very vigorously and play a more active role in the common struggle against the Anglo-Americans."

Netaji declined to discuss any military questions being of secret nature but with regard to political questions, referred to the recent announcement that the Nippon Government had decided to open up diplomatic relations with the Provisional Government of Azad Hind, as one of the results achieved on the political side. "The opening of the diplomatic relations will not only make our co-operation on political questions closer than before but will also help the successful prosecution of the war," said Netaji.

Netaji then spoke about the present cordial relations existing between Indians and Burmans in Burma.

Referring to Dr. Ba Maw's visit to Tokyo at the same time as that of Netaji he characterised the result as "Tripartite co-operation between the Burma Government, the Provisional

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Significance Of India Liberation War Fully Told

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Government of Azad Hind and the Nippon Government."

Referring to the recent Imphal campaign Netaji said: "There is no doubt that we are sorry we could not take Imphal in the first attack but what has happened has not come as a surprise to us. I had warned my countrymen time and again not to expect an easy campaign; the Indian campaign is of a different nature from the campaign in Burma or Malaya. We knew from the beginning what India meant to the British Empire and therefore it was quite natural that the British would do their very best to hold India. Apart from this consideration there is a special reason why the campaign on the Indo-Burma frontier will be particularly hard. If you look at the map, you will find that in the case of an attack from the East the only line along which satisfactory defence could be put up is the Indo-Burma frontier. Consequently, from the point of view of military strategy, if India is to be held by the British against an attack from the East, the only possibility lies in holding the Indo-Burma frontier. Once this frontier is broken it will be very difficult for them to put up a defence along a new line. On the political side also you will understand that once the campaign begins on Indian soil and begins to advance, the Indian people will see with their own eyes that the British are being defeated and are withdrawing. The result will be that the revolution in the country will begin. So long as the British are able to keep us out they will succeed in keeping up the impression inside India that they are still strong. So both from the military and political points of view it is natural that the British will do their best to hold the Indo-Burma frontier.

With regard to the future prospects of the campaign Netaji declared, "After the last military operations we are more confident than before of achieving success. We have had the opportunity of meeting the British forces in several sectors along a line stretching seven hundred miles and we have had the opportunity of measuring their strength. We know exactly how this time we can drive them out despite their superiority in arms and equipment and also in numbers.

Netaji then referred to the importance of the Indian campaign in general and said: "The Indian campaign is of much larger significance than merely a campaign for India's liberation. A successful campaign in India will be the best defence for Burma and whatever threat now exists to the safety of Burma will disappear when we advance into India. Our campaign will also help to solve the Chinese problem. Now unfortunately the Chungking Government thinks that the Anglo-Americans will win the war and as a result of this idea whatever promise is given by the Anglo-Americans is taken very seriously by certain circles in Chungking. Because of this mistaken idea the Chungking Government is following a policy which is against the interest of all Asiatic peoples as a whole. If we can liberate Bengal and Assam that will be the best proof that the Anglo-Americans are going to lose the war and Chungking will then be forced to change her policy. The Indian campaign therefore is of great significance not only for India and Burma but for China as well", he concluded.

Indians Here Take Solemn Pledge To Follow Netaji In Life & Death

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vociferous cries of "Netaji ki jai" and thunderous rounds of applause.

Netaji began his address recalling the magnificent support given by the Syonan and Malai Indians to the formation of the Azad Hind Government and the Azad Hind Fauj and went on to say that he had heard stories recently that the Indians in Syonan had been flagging in their interest. He did not known whether they were true or not. The Syonan and Malaian Indians had, however, no cause to allow their enthusiasm to diminish. The failure to capture Imphal was no cause for any Indian to slacken his interest in the struggle. It was a matter of strategy and anyone with a knowledge of strategy would not have cared to put such a question.

He wanted an answer from them, at the end of the meeting, whether they were going to stand by him till the fight for freedom was over and give him the fullest support in men, money and material to wage the fight to a successful issue.

I.N.A. Successes

The Indian National Army had been fighting side by side with the Nippon Imperial Army with the grimmest determination to capture Imphal after obtaining successes after successes in Arakan and other places but, as it was found difficult to move forces and supplies due to the monsoon setting in, they had to make a strategic withdrawal from Imphal in the interests of everybody.

Netaji went on: "Imphal will decide the fate of India. To the British, Imphal is the Maginot Line of India, and once we chase the British out of Imphal and enter the borders of Bengal and Assam, then it will be a route march for us up to Calcutta".

He was quite aware of the fact that in recent times the agents of British Imperialism had been active in their midst with the sole object of hampering their efforts in the freedom struggle. Although these sedulous propagandists called themselves Indians he must tell them that they were unworthy to call themselves Indians—they were asses and traitors of their motherland. Before their activities became rife steps would be taken to remove them from their midst.

He must also tell these agents of British Imperialism that this war for India's freedom was being waged not for their sake but for the sake of the 388 million Indians and those who are participating in the struggle in East Asia.

Adverting to the progress of the war in the Pacific Netaji said that the smashing blows which the Nipponese had been delivering to the American fleet off Taiwan and in the Philippines were spelling their doom and he was quite confident that in East Asia Nippon would emerge victorious.

Referring to the forthcoming campaign against the British on the Indo-Burma frontier, Netaji said that the Indian National Army stood firm in their grim determination poised for the final battle to drive the British out of India and to carry on their march to Delhi. With freedom or death as their watchword, they stood resolved to sacrifice their lives on the march to Delhi. The soldiers of the Indian National Army had proved themselves worthy sons of India and magnificent testimony had been forthcoming to their fighting qualities not only by their commanders but by Nippon military officials as well.

Netaji appealed to all wealthy Indians of Syonan and Malai to give freely so that the Indian National Army could carry on the fight without any handicap. "You say you are all prepared to sacrifice your lives in the cause of India's freedom. If so why do you show hesitancy in parting with your wealth for such a noble cause? asked Netaji with great fervour.

"This is a total war and total mobilization is the only way to attain our objective against a powerful enemy who had the advantage of material strength," declared Netaji, adding that there was great need for more volunteers to the Rani of Jhansi Regiment and that more women must come forward to swell the ranks of the Regiment.

Indians' Assurance

Before concluding his speech Netaji repeated his question for a decisive answer whether the Syonan and Malai Indians would stand by him in life or death till the fight was over and give him the fullest support in men money and material to continue the fight to a successful issue, and the gathering gave an enthusiastic undertaking by a show of hands and cries of "Netaji ki jai."

Netaji also promised to meet them at another public meeting very shortly when he proposed to give a survey of the war situation in Europe and East Asia.

The meeting concluded with the singing of the National Song. A large number of contributions were then handed to Netaji by leaders of several sections of the Indian community.

Germans Seize Vital Positions In Big Offensive

Lisbon, Dec. 15 (Domei)—London dispatches said that the Germans have launched a determined offensive along the whole length of the bulge they hold west of the Rhine, and in the southern end of the Western Front have seized important positions dominating the Mulhouse-Belfort road to threaten anti-Axis supply lines. They said that anti-Axis troops were hitting back in an attempt to restore the breaches in their lines.

In the north United States First Army troops are now along the River Roer for six miles on each side of the German town of Duren. The German High Command said that German forces were engaged in heavy defensive fighting west and south-west of Duren on the Roer River front. It added that the Germans engaged strong infantry and tank forces of the American First Army which had been attacking on a broad front since the middle of yesterday. At the eastern edge of the forest south of Duren, the Americans gained only a small stretch of swampy territory full of craters.

On the Saar front the enemy was able to push German defences slightly back, the German communique said. In upper Alsace the Germans continued their successful attacks in several sectors, the German High Command said. German long-distance weapons continued yesterday to shell London and Antwerp.

Enemy Detachment In Ormoc Theatre Routed

A Nippon Base in the Philippines, December 15 (Domei)—While fierce street fighting is in progress in Ormoc between our defenders and a section of the enemy force which penetrated into the city from the south-east, along the coastal road, another enemy detachment, which on December 11 attempted to push into the city from the hilly north-eastern districts after detouring to our left flank, was completely routed by last night by our fresh reinforcements. The battle front now extends from east to west with our right wing at the city of Ormoc.

In the Burauen sector, our forces, which have completed the occupation of the north and south airfields as well as San Pablo airfield, are continuing to maintain their hold on the airfields and by strengthening their positions, are sealing up the enemy's fierce counter-attacks.

(Continued in previous column)

Johore Indians Set Splendid Example

In keeping with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's instruction to look after the interests of their needy compatriots, eleven prominent Indians here volunteered recently to supply meals to the inmates of the local Indians' Distitute Home following a meeting addressed by Lieut-Col G. Q. Gilani, Secretary of the Social and Welfare Department of the I.I.L. Rear Headquarters.

Following the lead by Sri RM. ST. V. Sinniah Pillai, a leading Indian merchant in Johore, who volunteered to supply three meals a month to the 100 odd inmates of the Home, and by O. Rahiman Sahib, who volunteered to supply two meals to them monthly, the following gentlemen offered to do so once a month:

K. Wahab, CT. RM. Ramasamy Chettiar, Ganapathi Villas, T. A. Mohamed Ismail, L. Govindasamy Pillai, A. N. Abdul Majid & Co., Tobacco Trading Co., K. Rengasamy Chettiar and Ujagar Singh (President, Sikh Temple).

Addressing the gathering, the Colonel stressed the duty of every Indian to look after the welfare of their needy compatriots, and stated that this aspect of the League's activities had become rather important; while Dr. N. Mootatamby, Chairman of the Johore Branch of the I.I.L., declared that Indians by nature are charitable and he expected that more rich people would come forward and volunteer to supply these inmates with food and clothing, so that at least two proper meals would be forthcoming for the inmates.

WANTED

DRESSERS FOR AZAD HIND FAUJ

Applications are invited from qualified Dressers (I, II and III Grades) for absorption in the Indian National Army stating Name, Age, Medical Fitness, Educational Qualifications and whether Married (number of dependants in Dai Toa), or Single.

Prospects are as follows:—

i. Before absorption in the A.H.F. they will be given Military Medical Training for a period as required to become efficient Medical Assistants.

ii. The course will start from 15th January, 2605.

iii. During the period of Training, they will be rationed, accommodated and equipped by No. 3 Hospital Bidadari, Syonan-To.

iv. On completion of Training the undermentioned Ranks will be given:—

Dressers Grade I. 2/Lieut.

Dressers Grade II & III, Sub-Officer.

v. Pay and Allowances for Cadets under Training as existing in I.N.A.

vi. Salary, Family Allowances &c. on completion of Training as existing in Azad Hind Fauj.

vii. Single journey railway fare will be paid to the selected candidates.

Applications should reach the undersigned through the respective League Branches on or before the 1st January, 2605.

Secretary,
Recruitment Department,
Rear Headquarters I.I.L., East Asia,
7, Chancery Lane, Syonan.

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